UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Jonathan Smith, Docket #CV-12-4408 (ADS)

Plaintiff,

United States Courthouse
Central Islip, New York
October 19, 2012
12:04 p.m. V.

Vincent Fredrico,

Defendant.

> TRANSCRIPT OF MOTION HEARING BEFORE THE HONORABLE E. THOMAS BOYLE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For The Plaintiff: Scott M. Moore, Esq.

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New York, NY 10111

For The Defendant: Chris P. Termini, Esq.

Assistant County Attorney

Office of the Suffolk

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For Robert Trotta: Diane Leonardo, Esq.

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Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording, transcript produced by transcription service.

- 1 THE COURT: Recording yet?
- 2 (Pause in proceedings)
- 3 MR. MOORE: Good day, Your Honor.
- 4 THE COURT: Hello.
- 5 MR. MOORE: Scott Moore, appearing on behalf of the
- 6 Plaintiff, Jonathan Smith.
- 7 MR. TERMINI: For Defendant Vincent Fredrico, Office
- 8 of Dennis M. Cohen, Suffolk County Attorney by Assistant
- 9 County Attorney Chris Termini.
- 10 MS. LEONARDO: And for Detective Trotta, at some
- 11 point Your Honor, Diane Leonardo from the United States
- 12 Attorney's Office. And with me with Your Honor's permission
- is one of our interns, Bailey Ensay (phonetic).
- 14 THE COURT: Surely.
- MS. LEONARDO: Thank you.
- 16 THE COURT: When was the Government served in this
- 17 case? Maybe I should address that to Mr. Moore. I'm
- 18 concerned about the Government appearing in this case under
- 19 the circumstances that you've outlined in your prior
- 20 correspondence, namely that you haven't received authorization
- 21 to represent Mr. Trotta.
- 22 MS. LEONARDO: That is correct, Your Honor.
- 23 THE COURT: You haven't received it?
- MS. LEONARDO: Not as of yet, Your Honor. I -- my
- 25 understanding is Detective Trotta was served in the beginning

- of September. I found out about it through Mr. Termini, from
- 2 the Assistant County Attorney.
- MR. MOORE: August 7th, excuse me. Service.
- 4 MS. LEONARDO: Well the complaint was filed in
- 5 September, I thought.
- 6 THE COURT: I've got August 4th for the Plaintiff's
- 7 Motion for Preliminary Injunction. Now was that the same date
- 8 as the complaint, in the summons and complaint?
- 9 MS. LEONARDO: Yeah, I believe the summons was --
- 10 the complaint --
- 11 THE COURT: What --
- MS. LEONARDO: -- was filed in September.
- 13 THE COURT: Whatever, it's some time ago. I'd be
- 14 hard pressed to say that the Government hasn't had an adequate
- 15 opportunity --
- MS. LEONARDO: Well --
- 17 THE COURT: -- to obtain any approval.
- 18 MS. LEONARDO: Well, Your Honor, we -- well we did.
- 19 After I was contacted by Mr. Termini, which I believe was
- 20 shortly before they filed an answer for the other Defendant,
- 21 Officer Fredrico, I did set into motion the process to get the
- 22 representation. What that entails, and I don't know if Your
- 23 Honor is aware, the -- Detective Trotta has been a task force
- 24 officer since approximately 2003, 2004. And what he needed to
- 25 do was then contact FBI counsel through the FBI office here.

- 1 That has been done, I spoke to FBI counsel this morning, they
- 2 are in the process of writing the recommendation for
- 3 representation, and then that unfortunately has to go to
- 4 Constitutional Torts Branch, also in Washington, D.C. I did,
- 5 Your Honor, after I spoke to Mr. Termini with regard to
- 6 Detective Trotta's status, I did send a letter to counsel for
- 7 the Plaintiff explaining that he was a federal task officer
- 8 acting in that capacity at the time of the incidences in the
- 9 complaint and that the Government would also have to be
- 10 served. Counsel apparently took exception to that insisting
- 11 that Detective Trotta was a Suffolk County employee at that
- 12 time. As a task force officer, the United States still has to
- 13 be served, and we have not been served yet.
- 14 THE COURT: Can you represent Mr. Trotta under these
- 15 circumstances?
- 16 MR. TERMINI: The problem is Judge, not having seen
- 17 the terms of the representation, I don't know if I'd put an
- 18 answer in, I'd comprise the representation and get disclaimed
- 19 by the Government. I've done a lot of insurance work through
- 20 the years, Your Honor, and every time there's an issue of
- 21 representation, if you inadvertently appear for a person, and
- 22 it turns out that it's not your obligation or duty or should
- 23 not be appearing, the other company may very well decide that
- 24 you've taken steps that have undermined their defense in some
- 25 way, shape, or form. And then I'm faced with a disclaimer.

- 1 So the problem I have is A) I don't have access to Government
- 2 records, and I don't feel comfortable speaking to Trotta
- 3 regarding his role with the Government.
- 4 THE COURT: Your are aware that counsel has filed a
- 5 Motion for Judgement by Default?
- 6 MR. TERMINI: I'm very aware of everything. I
- 7 immediately called the Assistant that's speaking before you
- 8 now, alerting them in case they were not getting the same
- 9 balances I was getting. I have -- I mean, to just link his
- 10 name on to prevent a default, am I willing to do that? Sure,
- 11 I'm willing to do that, I don't want a default. But I'm very
- 12 concerned about compromising his defense, nor can I speak to
- 13 him about his role with the Government and what he was doing
- 14 that day on behalf of the Government. It's beyond Suffolk
- 15 County's purview, his relationship, why he was there, what he
- 16 did, why he did, what role he was playing. So I could -- it's
- 17 almost like a blind answer with respect to that Judge.
- 18 THE COURT: All right. Ordinarily this wouldn't be
- 19 a difficult issue in all likelihood and -- let me hear first
- 20 from the Plaintiff's position with regard to this
- 21 representation issue.
- MR. MOORE: Thank you, Your Honor. We outline our
- 23 position in a filing yesterday and replied to the Assistant's
- 24 letter. And the position is clear and flatly set forth that
- 25 the complaint, allegations, and all the evidence and support

- 1 are that Detective Trotta is named individually and as an
- 2 employee, as a detective with the Suffolk County Police
- 3 Department. And there is no basis for the Government's
- 4 position that he is a federal Defendant and so we do now and
- 5 will continue to vigorously oppose the characterization of
- 6 Detective Trotta as a federal Defendant.
- 7 MR. TERMINI: He's flat out wrong Judge.
- 8 THE COURT: What --
- 9 MR. TERMINI: I hate to say that --
- 10 THE COURT: See --
- 11 MR. TERMINI: He's just --
- 12 THE COURT: I would --
- MR. TERMINI: -- flat out wrong.
- 14 THE COURT: Ideally I would like that issue to be
- 15 litigated with him represented by the U.S. Attorney's Office
- 16 as they intend to do. Do you have any objection to waiting
- 17 for that approval and we can try to nail that approval process
- 18 down and give you a deadline? What escalates this issue is
- 19 the request for a preliminary injunction, obviously. And
- 20 ordinarily, I don't think it would be quite the issue that it
- 21 is because of that pending motion and you're entitled to a
- 22 decision of course. But if the issue in this case is whether
- 23 Mr. Trotta can be represented by the U.S. Attorney's Office, I
- 24 would prefer to have the U.S. Attorney's Office be given an
- 25 opportunity to be heard in resolving any issue like that.

- 1 MR. MOORE: Your Honor, we would ask that a date
- 2 certain be set because the items that are sought to be
- 3 returned are perishable and will become stale and have no
- 4 value.
- 5 THE COURT: Sure.
- 6 MR. MOORE: Over time.
- THE COURT: Ms. Beckman, you're going to have to
- 8 expedite this case. It looks, just reading from the Default
- 9 Judgement I think that request I believe counsel used, let me
- 10 get it out, I think it was the 4th or the 7th. This says
- 11 September 7th, I'm reading from Mr. Moore's affidavit in
- 12 support of the Motion for Default Judgement and this is dated
- 13 October 17th, 2012 when this application was made. But it
- 14 indicates Trotta was served with a summons verified complaint
- 15 and motions for preliminary injunction on September 7th. So
- 16 the answer was due, according to counsels calculation, before
- 17 21 days. Your procedure, while it may a bureaucratic delay, I
- 18 don't find it very persuasive as being something that should
- 19 indefinitely delay someone's entitlement to take quick hearing
- 20 with regard to their request for a preliminary injunction.
- 21 MS. LEONARDO: Your Honor, with regard to the time
- 22 within which to answer as a federal employee would be 60 days.
- 23 So that time has not expired yet within which to answer, that
- 24 would be November 7th, number one. Number two, and I cited a
- 25 case for Your Honor, I don't have the complete cite with me in

- 1 my letter, Aikman I believe it was, where there was a similar
- 2 situation where it was a county officer was being sued, the
- 3 Government stepped in and, you know, said he was a federal
- 4 task officer and the Court agreed with the Government that the
- 5 United States also has to have been served which, I explained
- 6 to counsel in my letter of September 28th, that the United
- 7 States also has to be served. Until we are served, the time
- 8 within which to answer has not even begun.
- 9 MR. MOORE: Your Honor, we responded to that case in
- 10 our reply yesterday.
- 11 THE COURT: Okay, are both sides willing to submit
- 12 that? Do you have any objection to their limited appearance
- 13 for this purpose? And if both sides consent, I will decide
- 14 that issue based on the submissions by the parties. You want
- 15 to do that or do you want to give them an opportunity to --
- MR. MOORE: This -- the Court's --
- 17 THE COURT: -- file a formal appearance?
- 18 MR. MOORE: The Court's suggestion is, as I
- 19 understand it, you'll be making a ruling on this issue based
- 20 upon the submissions to date and we'll wait for that to come?
- 21 THE COURT: That's correct. I mean if counsel wants
- 22 --
- MR. MOORE: That's fine --
- 24 THE COURT: -- to submit --
- 25 MR. MOORE: -- with Plaintiff.

- 1 THE COURT: -- you know, additional --
- MR. MOORE: That's fine with Plaintiff.
- 3 THE COURT: I'd be glad to schedule something
- 4 additional, but if your --
- 5 MS. LEONARDO: Well, Your Honor, I don't think that
- 6 our request for representation is not gonna take much longer.
- 7 As I indicated, I spoke to FBI general counsel this morning
- 8 and they need to send their recommendation on to the
- 9 Constitutional Torts Branch. I can try to expedite that
- 10 process, but until that happens I really can't appear.
- 11 THE COURT: I agree.
- MR. MOORE: Your Honor, we're going to need a ruling
- on this issue anyway, so I think this -- the Court's
- 14 suggestion of how to do it, I think is a good one.
- 15 THE COURT: Well, theoretically I don't think I can
- 16 even consider their, unless you have no objection, I don't --
- 17 I can't consider their submission if they don't represent
- 18 anybody.
- 19 MR. MOORE: I understand, and that is our position
- 20 and we believe that's the correct position.
- 21 THE COURT: Can you get some kind of a determination
- 22 by a week from today?
- MS. LEONARDO: I cannot get it authorized today,
- 24 Your Honor.
- THE COURT: I said a week from today.

- 1 MS. LEONARDO: A week from today.
- THE COURT: 26th.
- 3 MS. LEONARDO: I can probably do it within two weeks
- 4 from today.
- 5 MR. MOORE: One week seems reasonable, Your Honor,
- 6 given the length of time the Government's had.
- 7 THE COURT: Do what you can do, you're pushing the
- 8 envelope here in my opinion as far as making any appearance.
- 9 I mean I -- without opining with regard to, you know, your 60
- 10 days or service on the Government or anything else, at this
- 11 point you really don't have a basis for appearing.
- 12 MS. LEONARDO: Your Honor, I can see if I can get an
- 13 answer from --
- 14 THE COURT: The --
- MS. LEONARDO: -- Washington within a week.
- 16 THE COURT: The 26th. Now, what I want to do is
- 17 talk to you folks on -- do you have any objection to Ms.
- 18 Beckman participating in this conference, because what I want
- 19 to do is address your preliminary injunction request.
- MR. MOORE: Ms. --
- 21 THE COURT: If you have an objection then she can't
- 22 be heard.
- MR. MOORE: Our position is the Government should
- 24 not be heard as outlined in our --
- 25 THE COURT: All right --

- 1 MR. MOORE: -- reply yesterday.
- THE COURT: Mr. Termini, I'll leave it up to you.
- 3 Where -- I have a motion for a preliminary injunction and I've
- 4 reviewed all the papers. What I need some input from you
- 5 folks on is whether or not there are factual issues here that
- 6 have to be explored, in which case I would set it down for an
- 7 evidentiary hearing or whether this is something that could be
- 8 done based on the papers.
- 9 MR. TERMINI: My understanding is that this seizure
- 10 is part of a federal criminal investigation, Judge. And to --
- 11 and that's one of the reasons I've limited my appearance to
- 12 where it is and stated that we're a custodian of the property
- 13 to date. And I know the Government is in the process --
- 14 THE COURT: I don't think your mic --
- MR. TERMINI: -- and I --
- 16 THE COURT: -- is on.
- MR. TERMINI: It is, I --
- 18 THE COURT: Is it? Yeah --
- 19 MR. TERMINI: -- guess I'm not talking --
- THE COURT: Good.
- 21 MR. TERMINI: -- into the mic. It's one of the
- 22 reasons I put in a limited appearance. I know, now know, that
- 23 this is part -- this seizure is part of a federal criminal
- 24 investigation. I now know that the Government has an interest
- 25 in picking up the property. We'd never had that interest in

- 1 prosecuting, but the Government has had interest in
- 2 prosecuting. I now know that these cigarettes, despite
- 3 counsels assertions, a per se contraband in and of itself. So
- 4 I'm left with a dilemma as far as that goes, I don't know
- 5 about the money, but I know that the cigarettes are per se
- 6 contraband. I, as a custodian that doesn't have a proprietary
- 7 interest other than holding it as a custodian, I don't know
- 8 it's my place to make all these legal arguments considering
- 9 whether the cigarettes are contraband, 'cause I was told,
- 10 "they'd pick it up, maybe we'll arrest him as soon as he picks
- 11 it up. That's a possibility 'cause they're contraband." So
- 12 I'm leery of doing too much 'cause I'm limited in what I can
- 13 and can't do with respect to the subject nature of the
- 14 preliminary injunction. I'm not talking about the rest of the
- 15 case, which has to do with the stop, the seizure, search, and
- 16 all that. So I know the Government has those interests and I
- 17 know that they should be heard in this matter. I take the
- 18 point of view that what I have been told, they have more time
- 19 to even answer. I take the point of view that since they have
- 20 the interest in the property, and it's part of their criminal
- 21 investigation, they should be heard on this issue in it's
- 22 entirety for the Court. It's last thing, you know, if the
- 23 Court were to rule on my interpretation alone of whether this
- 24 property, namely the cigarettes, are contraband or not, and
- 25 wrongly interpret what I've said and maybe turning over

- 1 improperly these cigarettes to begin with. That's -- if I
- 2 have an interest, it's an interest in whether contraband
- 3 cigarettes should be turned over or not --
- 4 THE COURT: Who has --
- 5 MR. TERMINI: -- period.
- 6 THE COURT: Who has possession of these cigarettes
- 7 right now?
- 8 MR. TERMINI: As of yesterday, it was my belief we
- 9 still had the actual three pallets of cigarettes and 36,000
- 10 and change in money, in currency. We have it, the
- 11 Government's made a request to pick up that from our property
- 12 clerk. At this point, there's a procedure that must be
- 13 followed for them -- for that property to be turned over.
- 14 Nobody can just walk in and get it from the property clerk,
- 15 and I'm part of that process.
- 16 THE COURT: If and when the Government takes
- 17 possession of those cigarettes, do you have any interest in
- 18 this, any client --
- 19 MR. TERMINI: I --
- 20 THE COURT: -- to represent in this proceeding?
- 21 MR. TERMINI: The only interest I have is --
- 22 actually I have no proprietary interest once it's picked up,
- 23 but I really don't have a proprietary interest at this point.
- 24 It's I'm a mere custodian. It's -- and we're not claiming we
- 25 are gonna use it any shape, way shape or form. Or we're gonna

- 1 dispose of it, especially now that we have a request from the
- 2 Government.
- 3 But, I think I have an obligation as someone who works
- 4 for the county, and someone that works in conjunction with the
- 5 cigarettes, and I have other cases before Chief Judge Amon
- 6 regarding cigarettes and untaxed cigarettes on reservations.
- 7 I think I have an obligation to point out to the Court my view
- 8 of these cigarettes, especially since in every one of these
- 9 cases that I'm familiar with, the Defendant's Indian either
- 10 re-salers or wholesalers from the reservation, either selling
- 11 from the reservation or getting or supplying the reservation
- 12 have all agreed, that by virtue of the amendment of the tax
- 13 law in 2010, there can be no cigarettes on reservations that
- 14 are un-stamped. They must have a tax stamp on, so that tells
- 15 me, unless there were arrangements made, as I pointed out in
- 16 my letter, with the state, that who is responsible for the
- 17 payment of taxes, and that they were gonna procure the tax
- 18 stamps, then it's contraband. And I have not seen any proof
- 19 that that was done. So my point of view, yes, it's contraband
- 20 and I have an obligation to tell the Court in my opinion it's
- 21 contraband. And I'm sure the Government's gonna back that up
- 22 and probably go beyond what I say, but -- and this is really
- 23 based on what I'm being told in other cases. They've all
- 24 agreed, all the Indian reservation dealers and wholesalers all
- 25 said the same thing, by virtue of the new tax law, we all

- 1 agree that all cigarettes on reservations must have tax stamps
- 2 on them. They all say the same thing. Plaintiff admits this
- 3 was going to the reservation by virtue of their papers. If
- 4 it's going to the reservation and they have un-stamped
- 5 cigarettes, very simply they've to had made prior arrangements
- 6 with the state tax commission. I don't see it alleged in any
- 7 of the papers, so I as an attorney, was dealt with this issue,
- 8 have an obligation to tell this Court, especially in side
- 9 proceedings before Chief Judge Amon, I was just on the phone
- 10 with her on one of our Plaintiff cases against an Indian
- 11 wholesaler regarding this very issue. I have an obligation to
- 12 say something, so I said it in my letter, but I think the
- 13 burden of this is not my burden, it's really the Government's
- 14 burden at least as to those items.
- THE COURT: Your appearance in this case is on
- 16 behalf of Vincent Fredrico.
- 17 MR. TERMINI: He was called to assist, and what
- 18 happened --
- 19 THE COURT: So he assisted Trotta, but he wasn't a
- 20 member of the task --
- MR. TERMINI: No.
- 22 THE COURT: -- force?
- MR. TERMINI: No.
- 24 THE COURT: Is that the situation?
- MR. TERMINI: That's correct, Judge. He -- what --

- 1 Trotta called for an assist. And since they had information
- 2 it was gonna be in and around that precinct, he called that
- 3 precinct. There's a lot more than Plaintiff knows and so he
- 4 was called as an assist, so he was not part of the federal
- 5 task force. I have an obligation to answer for him, which we
- 6 have done. Okay, and that's where it stands in terms of
- 7 representation.
- 8 THE COURT: Do you see any factual issues here that
- 9 would warrant an evidentiary hearing?
- 10 MR. TERMINI: No, I think this is an issue of law.
- 11 I really do, Judge, I mean as far as what happened, these were
- 12 seized, that's part of his rest of his law suit.
- 13 THE COURT: Mr. Moore submitted a copy of the, what
- 14 I guess is, a bill of lading in this case that itemized the
- 15 cigarettes and I thought I had read representations that there
- 16 was no --
- 17 MR. TERMINI: Well --
- 18 THE COURT: -- adequate bill of lading.
- MR. TERMINI: No, he -- what he had in his complaint
- 20 was the bill of lading which was that definitive. He now --
- 21 THE COURT: Which was not --
- 22 MR. TERMINI: -- has submitted.
- 23 THE COURT: I didn't hear you.
- 24 MR. TERMINI: He had a bill of lading that wasn't
- 25 very particularized. He's now submitted invoices which I've

- 1 seen for the first time. And it does specify the amount and
- 2 the price he allegedly paid.
- 3 THE COURT: Is there a distinction between invoices
- 4 and a bill of lading in the --
- 5 MR. TERMINI: Well I don't know --
- 6 THE COURT: -- county's position?
- 7 MR. TERMINI: -- if there is or isn't. I would rely
- 8 on what I said, which is the rest of 471, I think I quoted,
- 9 which are the requirements of one entering into the state with
- 10 untaxed -- with no stamps on the cigarettes. They must make
- 11 arrangements with the state tax commission. And what's
- 12 lacking in both the documents presented by the Plaintiff is
- 13 who is gonna pay the tax. They must assert who's paying the
- 14 tax and the rest of section deals with then speaking to the
- 15 state, making arrangements, possible inspections, 'cause the
- 16 state has a right to inspect all these items on the
- 17 reservation. There can be no cigarettes on reservations
- 18 entering, I don't care how it enters, there can be no such
- 19 cigarettes any longer on the reservations that do not have
- 20 these tax stamps and next to the cigarettes. If there are
- 21 such, they must make immediate arrangements with the state,
- 22 indicate who's paying it, and procure these tax stamps. The
- 23 only exception is for personal consumption or personal Natives
- 24 on the reservation. The amount of these cigarettes go far in
- 25 excess of any possible personal consumption and I don't think

- 1 the Plaintiff is seriously making the claim that all these
- 2 cigarettes are for personal consumption on the reservation.
- 3 THE COURT: So, to get back to my --
- 4 MR. TERMINI: Yeah.
- 5 THE COURT: -- concern. Regardless of whether the
- 6 bill of lading is adequate or not, it's really an academic
- 7 question in light of the fact that your position is that that
- 8 stamp is required.
- 9 MR. TERMINI: It's required and there has to be
- 10 notification with the state either before entry into the state
- 11 or immediately after entry into the state. The state must
- 12 know about it and there must be arrangements made for the
- 13 payment of these -- of the stamps so the sales tax is paid.
- 14 THE COURT: Is there any question here with regard
- 15 to that issue?
- 16 MR. TERMINI: There's no allegation that they did
- 17 any of that.
- 18 THE COURT: Oh.
- 19 MR. TERMINI: And I've examined even the invoices.
- 20 There's nothing on the invoice what states who is responsible
- 21 and who is gonna pay for the state -- for the sales tax with
- 22 the state. Doesn't exist, in the absence of that, he hasn't
- 23 complied with the tax law. Having not complied with the tax
- 24 law, without even getting into to the CCTA, which is the
- 25 federal statute, it's not in compliance, it's illegal.

- 1 THE COURT: Mr. Moore, would you like to be heard?
- MR. MOORE: Just briefly, Your Honor. We would rely
- 3 on our papers for opposition to most of what my adversary has
- 4 said. But something new has come up and that is that opposing
- 5 counsel has indicated the county intends to change custody of
- 6 the seized items and we would ask the Court to retain the
- 7 status quo and instruct the county to retain the seized
- 8 property until this case is resolved. Thank you.
- 9 THE COURT: Is that all you want to say?
- 10 MR. MOORE: Yes, sir.
- 11 THE COURT: I'm concerned with this issue of
- 12 representation and I'll tell you why. In a strict legal
- 13 sense, in all likelihood I think the argument that probably
- 14 must prevail is that under these circumstances as we sit here
- 15 today, that the Government doesn't have any standing to be
- 16 heard. On the other hand, the practicality of this issue is
- 17 that at some point or another I've been asked to issue a
- 18 report and recommendation. And if it's to have any value at
- 19 all, I suspect that it would be greatly diminished if a
- 20 determination was made without the input of the Government in
- 21 the event that there was later determination that this whole
- 22 issue was decided without their input and they had been denied
- 23 an opportunity to be heard and they had been denied an
- 24 opportunity to make an appearance. As a practical matter,
- 25 what concerns me is proceeding to any kind of an evidentiary

- 1 hearing at this point because I think that subsequent events
- 2 will probably impact on anything we do. Do you care to
- 3 comment on that Mr. Moore?
- 4 MR. MOORE: Yes, Your Honor. The positions being
- 5 advanced by the Government are speculative. And not even
- 6 supported by any piece of evidence such as occurred in the
- 7 Westchester County case that they cited in support. And the
- 8 need for a preliminary injunction for a return of the product,
- 9 in particular that it will become of no value over time only
- 10 serves the interest of delay by my adversaries. Even in the
- 11 event that the Government does file an appearance of
- 12 representation of Mr. Trotta, we will still need to, on our
- 13 side, put that ruling to the Court. Because we -- it has many
- 14 ramifications and they're trying to make this a case that is
- 15 not and it's speculative. And we -- so we would ask the Court
- 16 to weigh the interest of the Plaintiff in our favor for this
- 17 preliminary injunction.
- 18 THE COURT: Would you care to address this issue
- 19 with regard to the need for an evidentiary hearing or whether
- 20 or not your request can be determined as a matter of law based
- 21 on papers.
- 22 MR. MOORE: We're satisfied that the case can be
- 23 decided on as submitted to date including the fact that the
- 24 complaint is a verified complaint by Mr. Smith.
- 25 THE COURT: And you've reviewed the answer in this

- 1 case and there are no disputed issues of material facts?
- MR. MOORE: Well the answer, as I read it, was not
- 3 too informative. It just sort of left us to our pros and
- 4 there wasn't even admission that Mr. Fredrico is a police
- 5 officer so.
- 6 THE COURT: Mr. Termini, you indicated you made a
- 7 limited appearance, I may not have picked that --
- 8 MR. TERMINI: No --
- 9 THE COURT: -- up.
- MR. TERMINI: I'm appearing fully for Fredrico.
- THE COURT: Oh, okay.
- 12 MR. TERMINI: But if the Court were gonna issue a
- 13 default then I certainly am not gonna let Trotta hang --
- 14 THE COURT: I wouldn't --
- MR. TERMINI: in the wind.
- 16 THE COURT: -- it's not my prerogative, but I just
- 17 wanted to call it to the attention, you now, that --
- MR. TERMINI: Oh, I'm aware --
- 19 THE COURT: -- there was that motion that was
- 20 pending against Mr. Trotta.
- 21 MR. TERMINI: I'm aware, and I've taken whatever
- 22 steps, in my opinion, are the appropriate steps regarding all
- 23 of this. And as I originally stated, I do not wish to
- 24 compromise in any way, shape, or form his defense. And it
- 25 could have detrimental effects to the county because the

- 1 Government, if I put an answer in without consulting with
- 2 them, they could disclaim on that basis.
- 3 THE COURT: All right. What I'm going to do is put
- 4 this down for a week from today and I regret that you folks
- 5 are on a Friday schedule and I don't like to. Please don't
- 6 consider this as any form of punishment, but I have a jury
- 7 trial set up all next week, we pick the jury on Monday and
- 8 we're starting first thing on Monday morning so I'm going to
- 9 be occupied with that during the week. But what I'd like to
- 10 do is set up oral argument on the application in the hope that
- 11 the Government will be in a position to participate in this
- 12 proceeding by that date. I'm going to set it up for 3:30 in
- 13 the afternoon and we'll just break early if we haven't
- 14 completed that jury trial.
- MR. MOORE: Pardon me, Your Honor, but I expect to
- 16 be out of the state next week.
- 17 THE COURT: Do you?
- 18 (The Court and the clerk confer)
- 19 MR. TERMINI: If we're going into the following week
- 20 Judge, I just wanted to say Friday the 2nd is no good cause
- 21 I'm out of state. I'm out state on November 2.
- 22 THE COURT: Actually I have back to back trials that
- 23 are set up I think, but I'll get the diary and we'll see what
- 24 we can do. What I'm going to have to do set you folks up for
- 25 an afternoon.

- 1 (Pause in proceedings)
- 2 MR. MOORE: Would Monday the 29th or Tuesday the
- 3 30th be convenient for the Court?
- 4 THE COURT: Monday the --
- 5 MR. MOORE: 29th.
- 6 THE COURT: -- 29th.
- 7 MR. MOORE: So that's the Monday after the Friday
- 8 the Court was first chose.
- 9 MS. LEONARDO: Your Honor, that date would not be
- 10 good for me, but the 30th would be fine.
- 11 THE COURT: I would say block up the 30th. So
- 12 you're talking about October 30th, is that correct?
- MR. MOORE: Yes, Your Honor.
- 14 THE COURT: October 30th? All right, good. I can
- 15 set it up for 2 o'clock on that date.
- MR. MOORE: It works for Plaintiff, Your Honor.
- 17 THE COURT: Good, 2 p.m., oral argument. And, part
- 18 and partial of the law situation is my concern with regarding
- 19 any issues of fact that are material here to the Plaintiff's
- 20 requests. So if you could include that in your presentation,
- 21 that would be helpful. Ordinarily, I just set these down for
- 22 an evidentiary hearing, but in this case I'm inclined to think
- 23 that the law may be sufficient. And Ms. Beckman, anything you
- 24 can do to urge your people to expedite this matter I would
- 25 be --

1	MS. LEONARDO: I will do that, Your Honor.
2	THE COURT: would be appreciated.
3	MS. LEONARDO: I will do that.
4	THE COURT: Good. Okay, anything else at this time
5	that the parties would like to address?
6	MR. MOORE: No, Your Honor. Not on behalf of
7	Plaintiff.
8	THE COURT: Okay. All right, thank you very much.
9	I'll see you on the 30th.
10	MR. MOORE: Thank you, Judge.
11	MR. TERMINI: Thank you.
12	(Court adjourned)
13	
14 15 16 17 18	CERTIFICATION I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.
20 21 22 23	Lewis Parham 10/31/12
24	Signature of Transcriber Date